nine

NOVEMBER 15, 8:15PM GMT.
KNIGHT'S SPUR.
AYE, LAD, BUT IT'S A MIGHTY BIG WORLD...
.. AND EVEN THE BANISHED AND THE BADDUNS...
.. EVENTUALLY RETURN TO THE CLAN.
GARGOYLES
CLAN-BUILDING
NOVEMBER 15, 12:11AM GMT.
VICTORIA TOWER.
ISN'T THIS TURNING INTO QUITE THE REUNION?

NOVEMBER 7, 2:45PM GMT.
MAYFAIR.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
NOVEMBER 15, 1:31AM GMT.
VICTORIA TOWER.
PERHAPS... PERHAPS THIS IS ALL UNNECESSARY...
.. I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO GUARD THE STONE.
NOVEMBER 15, 12:18AM GMT.
LANTERN OF THE ABBEY.
CHAPTER NINE:
ROCK OF AGES

NOVEMBER 13, 5:40AM EST.
NIGHTSTONE UNLIMITED.
THE STORY IS TOLD-- THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE--
"OF EDWARD THE FIRST OF ENGLAND..."
"THE HAMMER OF THE SCOTS..."
"WHO SICCED HIS MIGHTY WARWOLF ON HIS NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH..."
"AND TOOK AS PRIZE THE STONE OF SCONE..."
"WHICH HE INSTALLED IN THE CORONATION CHAIR AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY..."
WHERE IT HAS CROWNED THE KINGS AND QUEENS OF ENGLAND DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY..."

NOVEMBER 15, 12:12AM GMT.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY.
"UHHH" AMP... WHAT'D I MISS?
VICTORIA TOWER.
APOLOGIES.
ZAK
ZAK
NEVER MIND. I GET THE GIST.
ZAK
FOLLOW MY LEAD!

ICR# IPOV: INFRARED
TRACKING: U.G. -1.
ICR# IPOV: INFRARED
TRACKING: LEXINGTON.
SCR# IPOV: INFRARED
TRACKING: U.G.-3.
SORRY, COCO...
MATE, YOU NICKED MY SHINY...
FEELING A BIT OUT-NUMBERED, BROTHER?

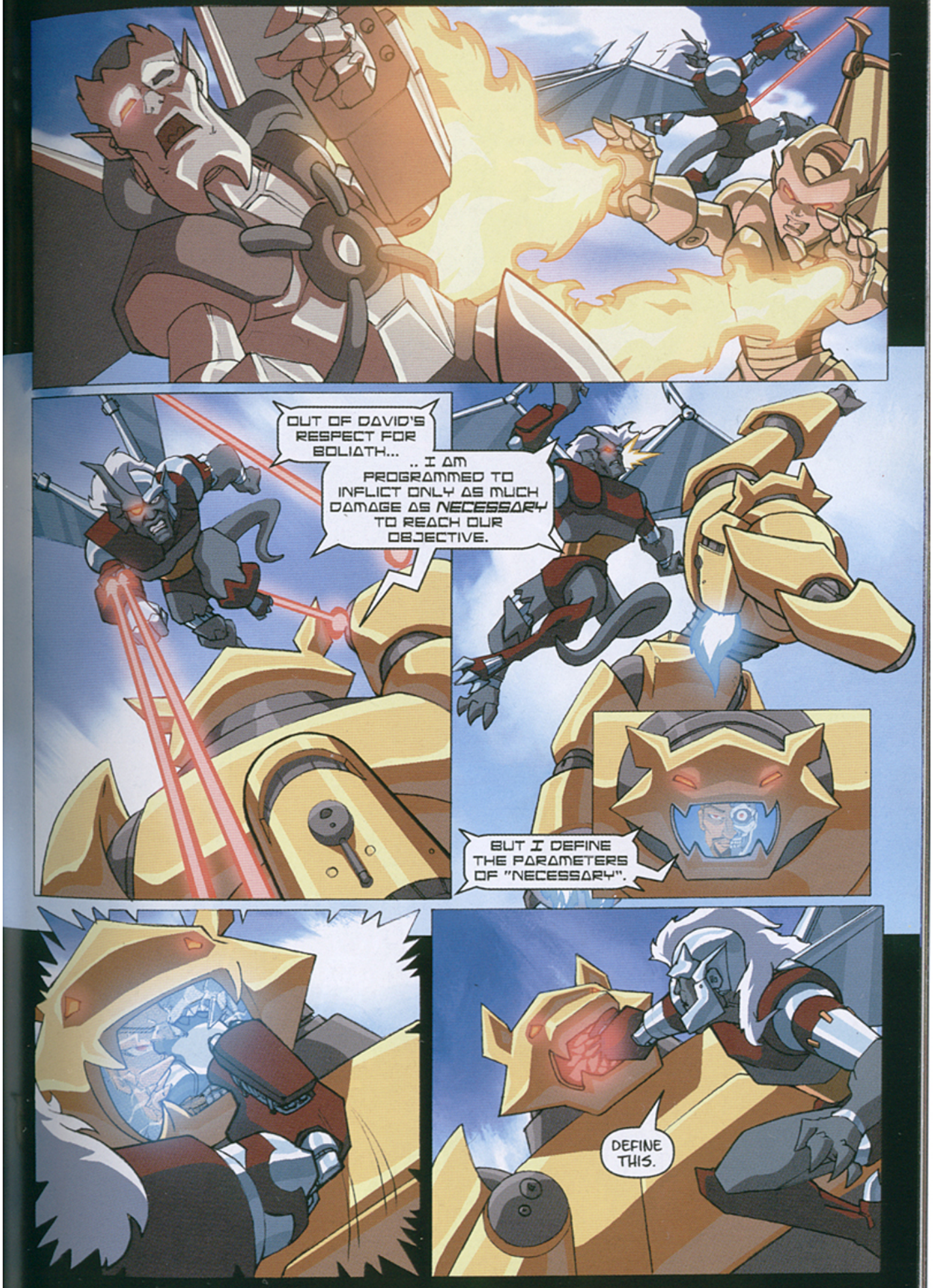
OUT-NUMBERED AND OVER-MATCHED!
ARGHHH!
YES, I WASN'T EXPECTING ALL THE COMPANY...
NOVEMBER 13, 6:01AM GMT+8. TIBET.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
I BELIEVE... I BELIEVE I CAN FIND HIM...
NOVEMBER, 12:17AM GMT. VICTORIA TOWER.
THOUGH I'M FAR FROM SHOCKED BY THE DEVELOPMENT...
COYOTE, COVER OUR DEPARTURE.
TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY.

NOVEMBER 14, 5:42AM EST.
NIGHTSTONE UNLIMITED.
THE STORY IS TOLD-- THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE--
"OF ROBERT THE BRUCE OF SCOTLAND..."
"WHO DEFEATED THE ENGLISH AT BANNOCKBURN..."
"WITH THE HELP OF AN IRISH ALLY, CORMAC MACCARTHY..."
"WITH THE VICTORY, CAME A PRIZE..."
"A FRAGMENT OF THE FATAL STONE THAT ENGLAND HAD TAKEN FROM SCONE..."
"THIS FRAGMENT, THE BRUCE GAVE TO MACCARTHY..."
"WHOSE DESCENDENTS HAD IT INSTALLED AT BLARNEY CASTLE..."
"WHERE IT IS SAID TO GRANT THE GIFT OF GAB."
I'VE KISSED IT MYSELF A TIME OR TWO...

NOVEMBER 15, 10:02AM GMT.
COLDSTREAM BRIDGE.
GET THE BOMB UNIT! NOW!!
MACBETH TO COLDSTONE: CONVOY'S STOPPED, AND XANATOS IS HERE.
WELL, IT'S A MOMENTOUS OCCASION... AND SUCH A LOVELY DAY...
SAFE TO SAY HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.
YES...
SAFE TO SAY.

HOLD, BROTHER!
HOLD, SISTER!
AS YOU SEE, I'VE HAD TIME TO MEND MY WAYS...
WELL, MY APPENDAGES...
RELEASE HER!
ARRGGGHHHH!

NOW THAT WE'RE MACHINES...
.. DON'T YOU LOVE THESE EXHILARATING DAY-TIME BATTLES...?
NO NASTY ORGANIC GARGOYLES TO EVEN THE ODDS...
CLASH
CONSIDER THE ODDS EVENED.
A T-T-TEMPORARY S-S-SETBACK...
THEN LET'S MAKE IT PERMANENT.
SELF-REPAIR MATRIX INITIATED. 001 0011 00 010 0101 10000111110000 10001 011.


OUT OF DAVID'S RESPECT FOR GOLIATH...
.. I AM PROGRAMMED TO INFLICT ONLY AS MUCH DAMAGE AS *NECESSARY* TO REACH OUR OBJECTIVE.
BUT I DEFINE THE PARAMETERS OF "NECESSARY".
DEFINE THIS.

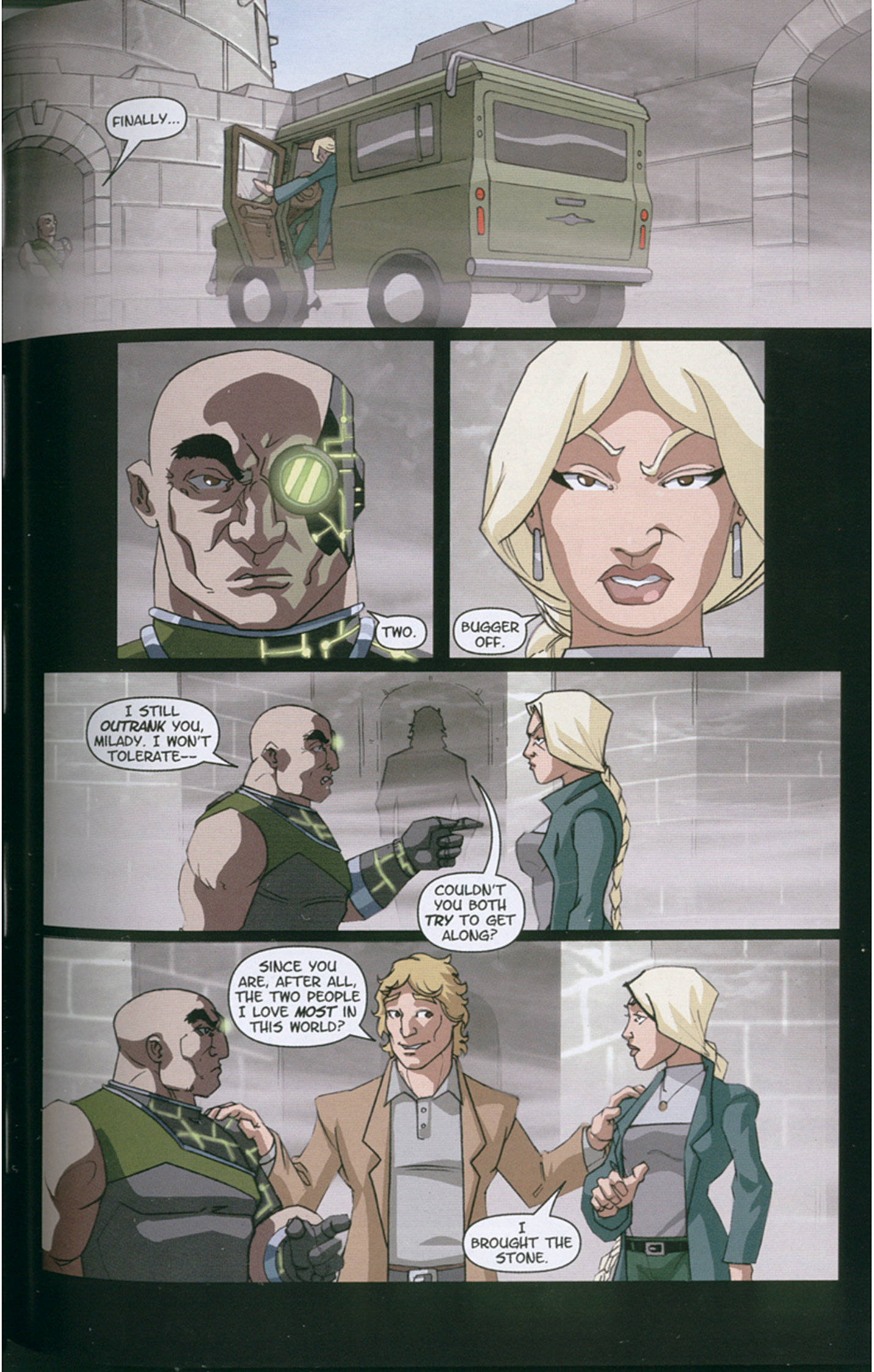
P-P-PITY. HE HAD P-P-POTENTIAL...
NOVEMBER 15, 6:16AM GMT. LEITH.
NO, I AM NOT PROGRAMMED FOR FREE WILL...
PITY. YOU HAVE POTENTIAL...

NOVEMBER 15, 10:05AM GMT.
RIVER TWEED.
NOVEMBER 15, 10:40AM GMT.
COLDSTREAM BRIDGE.
COLDSTONE TO MACBETH. WE'VE LOST COLD-STEEL.
JUST STAY ON THE ALERT...
LET'S GO! WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE!
THE STONE'S ON THE MOVE AGAIN.

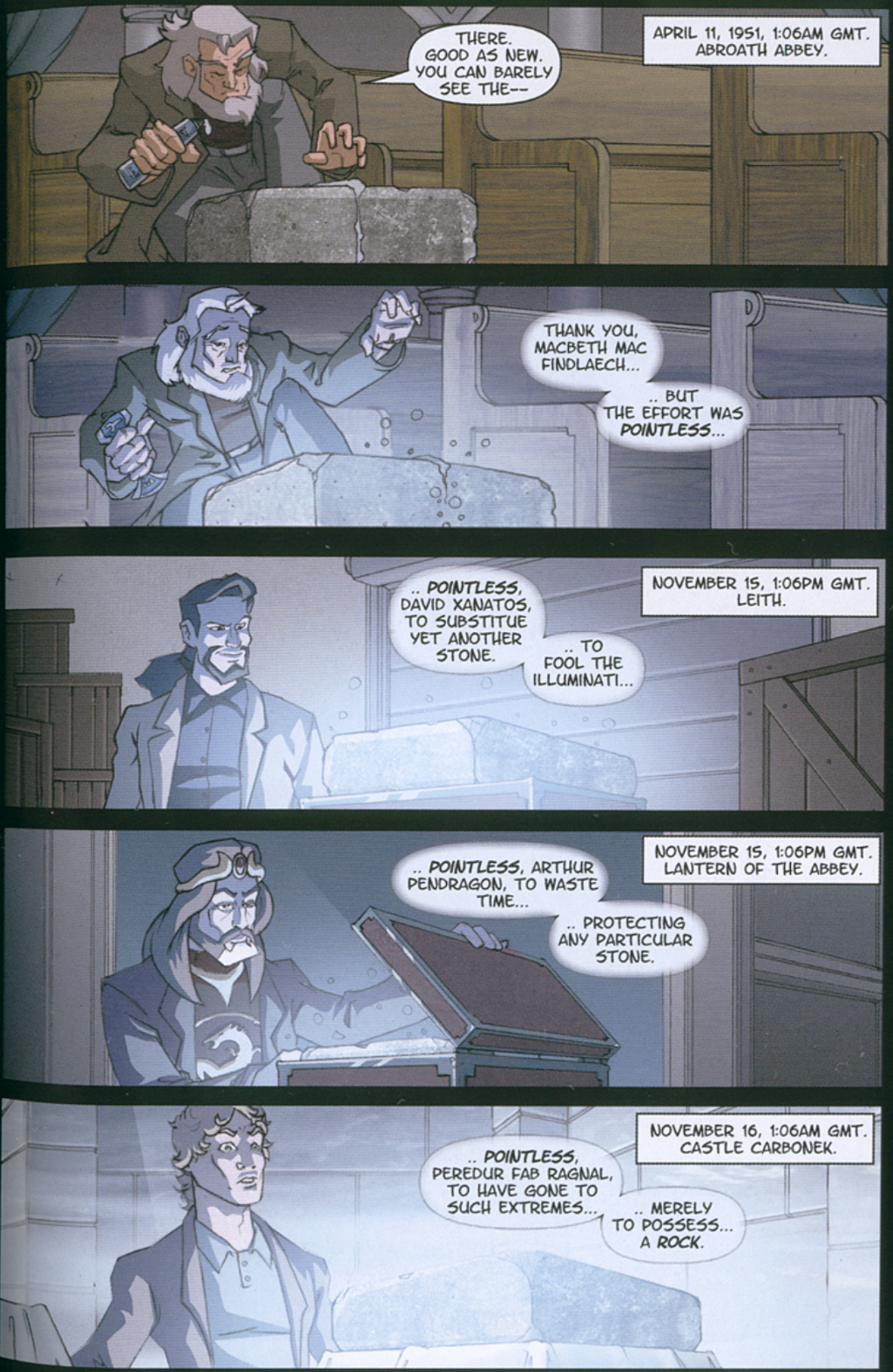
NOVEMBER 15, 12:00PM GMT.
EDINBURGH CASTLE.
WELL?
THE STONE'S BACK WHERE IT BELONGS!
WELL, IT BELONGS IN SCONE...
.. BUT AT LEAST IT'S BACK IN SCOTLAND.
NOVEMBER 15, 12:36PM GMT.
LEITH.
NOVEMBER 15, 3:59PM GMT.
LEITH.
THIRTY-SIX.
THREE.

ANY PROBLEMS?
ONLY FINDING A DUPLICATE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
NOVEMBER 15, 10:12AM GMT. COLDSTREAM BRIDGE.
BEEP

HEY, HOLD IT DOWN! THE BOMB SQUAD'S AT WORK!
NOVEMBER 15, 10:38AM GMT. COLDSTREAM BRIDGE.
RIGHT, WE'RE CLEAR. NOT A BOMB. JUST AN EMPTY SHOEBOX.
NOVEMBER 7, 7:19PM GMT. LONDON.
DARLING? DO YOU STILL NEED THIS SHOEBOX... OR MIGHT I DISPOSE OF IT?
Manolo
NOVEMBER 15, 4:04PM GMT. LEITH.


FINALLY...
TWO.
BUGGER OFF.
I STILL OUTRANK YOU, MILADY. I WON'T TOLERATE--
COULDN'T YOU BOTH TRY TO GET ALONG?
SINCE YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, THE TWO PEOPLE I LOVE MOST IN THIS WORLD?
I BROUGHT THE STONE.

NOVEMBER 13, 5:40AM EST.
NIGHTSTONE UNLIMITED.
CHECK.
THE STORY IS TOLD-- THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE--
"-- THAT ON A CLEAR CHRISTMAS NIGHT, A BAND OF SCOTTISH PATRIOTS..."
".. BROKE INTO WESTMINSTER ABBEY..."
".. TO STEAL THE STONE..."
".. AND IN THE PROCESS BROKE IT IN TWO!"

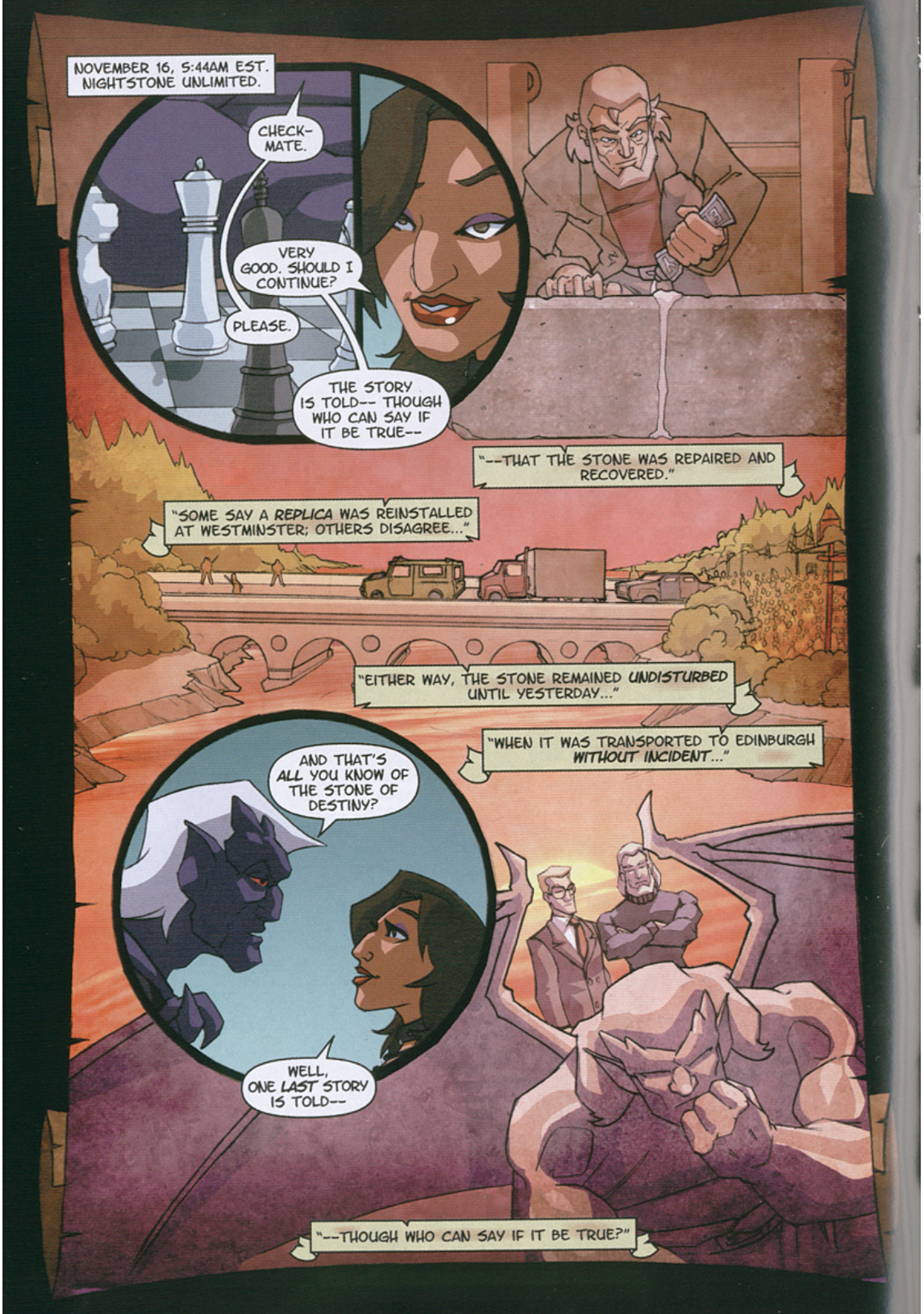

THERE. GOOD AS NEW. YOU CAN BARELY SEE THE--
APRIL 11, 1951, 1:06AM GMT. ABROATH ABBEY.
THANK YOU, MACBETH MAC FINDLAECH...
.. BUT THE EFFORT WAS POINTLESS...
.. POINTLESS, DAVID XANATOS, TO SUBSTITUE YET ANOTHER STONE.
.. TO FOOL THE ILLUMINATI...
NOVEMBER 15, 1:06PM GMT. LEITH.
.. POINTLESS, ARTHUR PENDRAGON, TO WASTE TIME...
.. PROTECTING ANY PARTICULAR STONE.
NOVEMBER 15, 1:06PM GMT. LANTERN OF THE ABBEY.
.. POINTLESS, PEREDUR FAB RAGNAL, TO HAVE GONE TO SUCH EXTREMES...
.. MERELY TO POSSESS... A ROCK.
NOVEMBER 16, 1:06AM GMT. CASTLE CARBONEK.

APRIL 11, 1951, 1:07AM GMT.
ARBROATH ABBEY.
NOVEMBER 15, 1:07PM GMT.
LEITH.
DO YOU THINK THE SPIRIT OF DESTINY CAN BE CONTAINED IN ONE VESSEL?
I AM THE FATAL STONE. THE LIA FAIL.
I AM THE PILLAR STONE, THE STONE OF THE SWORD, THE STONE OF THE WATERS, CLACH-NA-CINNEAMHAIN...
THE STONE OF BETHEL AND JERUSALEM, OF EGYPT, SAMOTHRACE AND PORTUGAL...
I AM THE BLARNEY STONE, THE CORONATION STONE, THE HERO STONE...
THE STONE AT TARA AND OF MORA, AT IONA AND OF SCONE, IN LONDON AND IN EDINBURGH...

NOVEMBER 15, 1:07AM GMT.
LANTERN OF THE ABBEY.
NOVEMBER 16, 1:07AM GMT.
CASTLE CARBONEK.
THE TANIST STONE, THE PHILOSPHER'S STONE, THE STANDING STONE, THE CORNERSTONE...
I AM THE MANTLE OF FATE...
I AM THE STONE OF DESTINY...
THE FOUNDATION STONE, THE MEGALITH DANCE, THE BURDEN OF SISYPHUS...
JACOB'S PILLOW, THE ROSETTA STONE, THE RUNE STONE, SIRE OF THE WYRD...
I AM THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR, THE PILLARS OF HERCULES, ULURU, CLACH SGÀIN...
I AM THE ROCK OF AGES!
DO NOT DREAM OF POSSESSING ME, MORTAL.

BESIDES, PEREDUR, DON'T YOU HAVE MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS OF CONCERN...
.. NOW THAT YOUR MASTER HAS AWAKENED?
WHAT?!
KING ARTHUR CANNOT BE... AWAKE?!
AWAKE AND RETURNED. I HAVE TWICE CONVERSED WITH HIM.
BUT WE DID NOT EXPECT HIM FOR ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED YEARS!
EVERY-THING WE PLANNED--
PLANS CHANGE.
I MUST CONTACT THE UPPER ECHELONS IMMEDIATELY!
HEY.
HEY.

NOVEMBER 15, 2:23PM GMT. LEITH.
THERE'S WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR BOY...
.. AND HERE'S YOUR ROCK.
OH, I'M JUST ITS MINDER.
I BELIEVE THAT COMPLETES OUR BARGAIN...
INDEED.
CONSIDER YOUR TRACKING DEVICE DE-ACTIVATED.
PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.
NOVEMBER 15, 8:13PM GMT. KNIGHT'S SPUR.
I KNOW IT DOESN'T MATTER...
BUT I'M GLAD THE STONE'S BACK IN SCOTLAND.
YOU LOT SHOULD STAY A WHILE. GET TO KNOW THE CLAN...
YEAH, MATES, STAY!
PLEASE!
BUT COLDSTEEL IS STILL OUT THERE...
AYE, LAD, BUT IT'S A MIGHTY BIG WORLD...


NOVEMBER 16, 5:44AM EST.
NIGHTSTONE UNLIMITED.
CHECK-MATE.
VERY GOOD. SHOULD I CONTINUE?
PLEASE.
THE STORY IS TOLD-- THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE--
"--THAT THE STONE WAS REPAIRED AND RECOVERED."
"SOME SAY A REPLICA WAS REINSTALLED AT WESTMINSTER; OTHERS DISAGREE..."
"EITHER WAY, THE STONE REMAINED UNDISTURBED UNTIL YESTERDAY..."
"WHEN IT WAS TRANSPORTED TO EDINBURGH WITHOUT INCIDENT..."
AND THAT'S ALL YOU KNOW OF THE STONE OF DESTINY?
WELL, ONE LAST STORY IS TOLD--
"--THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE?"

CLAN-BUILDING • VOLUME TWO

GARGOYLES

Written by
Series Creator
Greg Weisman

BASED ON THE HIT ANIMATED Disney SERIES!